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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/718,569  
Applicants : Tetsuya WATANABE et al.  
Title : SHAFT SEALING APPARATUS  
Filed : November 24, 2003  
Art Unit : 3676  
Examiner : Vishal Patel  
Docket No. : 36595-199008  
Customer No. : 26694  
Date: : September 17, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Preliminary Amendment, Response to Election Requirement and  
Request for Extension of Time**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Response to Election of Species Requirement** begins on page 8 of this paper.

09/20/2004 EFLURES 00000001 10718569

01 FC:1251 110.00 OP  
02 FC:1201 172.00 OP